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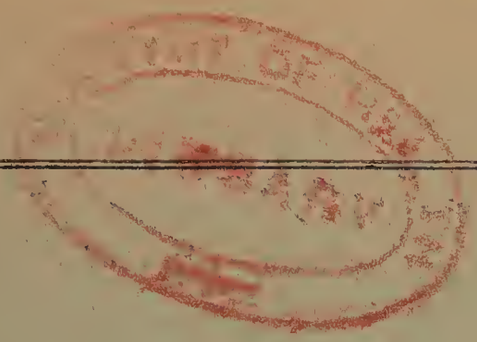

Rural District of Meriden.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1938,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa:

A. TOMES, LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET.

1939.

1, Milverton Hill,
Leamington Spa,
Sept., 1939.

To the Meriden Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Report for the year 1938 relating to the sanitary condition of the District and the health of its inhabitants.

The District, owing to its position between the cities of Birmingham and Coventry, continues to develop on Urban lines in the areas bordering on those cities, and the problems of local government naturally vary in character in sympathy with these changes.

I have included, owing to the kindness of Mr. Pickering, report of the work of his department, as it was felt that this would be of interest to the members of the Council.

My thanks are due to the members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, also to my colleagues for their ready help.

Much of the work in connection with this Report has fallen to Mr. Kenyon, and I wish to thank him for his willing assistance and advice at this and all other times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF OF THE MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Department :

FRANCIS T. KENYON, M.R.San.I., Cert. R.S.I., Meat, etc.

WILLIE OLDHAM, C.R.S.I., Cert R.S.I., Meat, etc.

ROY HAINES, C.R.S.I., Cert. R.S.I., Meat, etc.

C. F. UNDERWOOD, Clerk.

A. TOWNSHEND, Junior Clerk.

Surveyor and Engineer :

HERBERT PICKERING, C.R.S.I., M.I.M. & Cy.E., Cert. R.S.I., Meat, etc.

Public Analysts :

HILL & RIGBY.

Medical Officer of Health :

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Meriden Rural District.

A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

*Area (Acres)	61,775
*Population, Resident Census (1931)	24,709
Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1938	27,980
*Number of Inhabited Houses (1931)	5,791
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Book	8,268
*Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1931) ...	5,910
Rateable Value	£219,961
Sum represented by a penny rate	£873

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate	508	253	255	Birth Rate	18.6
	Illegitimate	11	6	5		
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births						28
Deaths		268	139	129	Death Rate	9.6
Adjusting Factor for Death Rate						1.02
Adjusted Death Rate						10.2
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	From Sepsis ...					—
	,, other causes					1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—						
All Infants per 1,000 live births						46
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births						47
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)						—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)						1
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...						1

* As constituted June 30th, 1932.

Vital Statistics.

Vide Table II.

Population.—The Registrar General furnishes a figure for the Resident Population in the middle of 1938 of 27,980; this compares with the Census figure of 24,709, and is 440 more than the estimate for 1937.

The increase is largely due to the rapid development of the district on the boundaries of the Cities of Birmingham and Coventry.

The "natural increase," that is, excess of births over deaths, was 251.

Births.—There were registered 519 births, giving a rate of 18.6 per 1,000 population. This rate is higher than that for 1937, which was 16.9 and higher than that for 1936, viz., 17.3.

Deaths.—268 in number, giving a death-rate of 9.6 per 1,000 population. This is less than the rate for 1937, which was 10.7.

The Death-rate adjusted for comparison with that of England and Wales, viz., 11.6, was 10.2 per 1,000.

The various causes of death are set out in Table IV., but the following causes are worthy of special mention :— Influenza 8, Apoplexy 8, Heart Disease 56, Bronchitis 7, Pneumonia 16, Tuberculosis 8, Bright's Disease 5, Congenital Causes 15, and Violent Deaths 24. As regards Cancer the following are the number of deaths tabulated since 1919 :—

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
21	23	28	23	26	23	28	31	24

1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
31	26	36	29	33	40	43	34	45	32

It will be seen that the number of deaths from Cancer is above the average of the past 18 years ; there is undoubtedly an increase, though this may in part be due to improved facilities for diagnosis.

Of these 32 deaths, 19 were in males and 13 in females.

The death-rate from Cancer per 100,000 population was 114, and this compares favourably with the figures for the past 10 years, which are as follows :—

1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
147	123	210*	75*	129	158	161	125	163	114

The total number of deaths from Cancer in the Combined District population of 178,740 was 269, and the figures per 100,000 population for the past 10 years are as follows :—

1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
124	151	142	152	155	146	146	148	151	151

*These figures are not comparable owing to alteration of population due to boundary changes.

Infantile Mortality.—24 deaths, giving a rate of 46 per 1,000 births, as compared with 21 and 45 in 1937, and as contrasted with the figure for England and Wales, which was 53.

15 deaths were due to conditions prior to birth.

The number of deaths from violence was 24, as against 22 in 1937.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

1. *Public Health Staff.*—A complete list is given at the beginning of this report.

2. *Nursing in the Home.*—None provided.

6.—*Laboratory Facilities.*—The following table shows the extent to which the County Scheme has been utilised for the free bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria ...	34 ...	132 ...	166
Enteric Fever...	— ...	6 ...	6
Tuberculosis ...	7 ...	26 ...	33
			205

7. *Legislation in force in the District.*—No change.

8. *Hospitals.*—This was fully dealt with in the Report for 1930, subject to alteration as to treatment of Smallpox as noted in the Report for 1934.

13. *Ambulance Facilities.*—Reference to the use made of the Council's Ambulance is made in the Report of the Surveyor which follows.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.—Table I. gives a summary of inspections, and in the Sanitary Inspector's reports will be found full details on this matter, as well as on the premises controlled by Bye-Laws.

1. (i) Water.—The district is favourably situated in respect of piped supplies of water. Of the 24 parishes, 11 have between 80 and 95% of the dwellings supplied ; 7 have between 25 and 75%, and the remaining 6 parishes depend largely on separate wells. The mains are continually being extended.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.—Twelve parishes have main sewerage and schemes have been approved by the Ministry for Balsall and Berkswell (joint) and Meriden. A scheme for Fillongley is under consideration.

2. (i) Rivers and Streams.—Cases of pollution of streams by drainage from dwellings and farm premises have been dealt with.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.—A few pail-closets have been converted to waterclosets.

(ii) Public Cleansing.—No change. See Mr. Pickering's report.

(iii) Sanitary Inspections of the Area.—See Table I.

(iv) Shops (Shops Act, 1934).—No action.

(v) Camping Sites.

1. Number of sites used during 1938—19.
2. Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issed by local authority—19.
3. Estimated maximum number of campers at one time during 1938—794.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.—No action.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.—No action.

(*a*) Public Swimming Baths—None.
(*b*) Privately-owned Swimming Baths—One.
(*c*) Action taken—None.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(*a*) Number of houses infested :—
(1) Council Houses, None.
(2) Other Houses, 4.

(*b*) Number of houses disinfested, 4.

(*c*) Method used for freeing infested houses : Fumigation and spraying (proprietary materials).

(*d*) Methods used on transfer to Council Houses, as above.

(*e*) Whether disinfestation by Local Authority or Contractor : Local Authority.

Water Supply and Sewage Disposal are dealt with fully in the report of the Engineer and Surveyor which follows.

Schools.—The Elementary Schools of the District have continued to receive inspection as occasion has arisen,

D. HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 387

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 387

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. 61

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 61

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 15

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 74

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 61

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a).—*Proceedings under sections* 9, 10 *and* 16 *of the Housing Act,* 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 12

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners 12

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners... —

(b).—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners ... ... —

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners —

(c).—*Proceedings under sections* 11 *and* 13 *of the Housing Act,* 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 10

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 7

(d).—*Proceedings under section* 12 *of the Housing Act,* 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 5

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... 1

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PARTLY OVERCROWDING.

(*a*)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	34
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	34
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	206
(*b*)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(*c*)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	12
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	68
(*d*)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	—
(*e*)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

5. NUMBER OF HOUSES OWNED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY distinguishing those built in the last two years and held under (1) Part III. of the Housing Act, 1925, (2) Part II. of the Housing Act, 1925, and (3) other powers

COUNCIL HOUSES.

Allesley	6	1919 Act.
Balsall	42	1924 Act.
Barston	8	,,
Berkswell	20	,,
Bickenhill	8	,,
Coleshill	20	,,
Coleshill	8	1930 Act.
Coleshill	6	1936 Act.
Fillongley	22	,,
Hampton-in-Arden	12	1924 Act.
Lea Marston	6	1936 Act.
Meriden	8	1919 Act.
Meriden	6	1936 Act.
Nether Whitacre	6	1924 Act.
Nether Whitacre	6	1936 Act.
Over Whitacre	4	1924 Act.
Water Orton	20	,,
	208	

(*b*) *Housing Conditions.*

1. *General Observations.*—This question was discussed fully in the Report for 1930, to which reference may be made.

2. *Sufficiency of the Supply of Houses.*—There are now 208 Council houses in the district, but it is certain that the demand still exists,

3. *Overcrowding.*—Details are given in Table on previous page.

4. *Fitness of Houses.*—Representations have been made to the Council during the year of 15 dwellings. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 10 dwellings, and Closing Orders for 5. Undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted in 10 cases and undertakings to repair in 1.

5. *Unhealthy Areas.*—Representations were made of 3 clearance areas, comprising 13 houses. Clearance Orders were made for all the houses represented, and the Orders have been confirmed.

6. *Bye-Laws.*—These appear to have been adequate, but they are being reviewed as required by the Public Health Act, 1936.

Bye-Laws as to New Buildings have been revised as required by the Public Health Act, 1936, and at time of writing have been approved and are in operation.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) *Milk Supply.*—Mr. Kenyon continues to take a keen and personal interest in the conditions under which milk is being produced in the District, and it is pleasing to note that in many cases at any rate he has succeeded in communicating his enthusiasm to those producers with whom he comes in contact.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The register of cowkeepers and the survey of dairy farms show as follows for 1938 :—

Cowkeepers registered		395
Wholesale	305	
Retailers	63	
Butter only...	27	
Cows in milk		5,792

805 cowsheds were inspected during the year and improvements effected at 28 farms, as follows :—

Cowshed lighting and ventilation improved	20
Floors and channels relaid	22
Cooler-places made or improved ...	5
Drainage improved	13
New (model) cowsheds erected	2
Sterilizers, for utensils, provided ...	6
General repairs	4
	72

This makes a total, to date, of improvements comprising 35 new cowsheds and 938 other items.

In addition to the 63 cowkeepers mentioned above who are also retailers, there are 47 purveyors of milk registered, 13 of whom bring milk into the district from outside.

33 Unregistered cowkeepers were found during the year; 9 others applied in proper form to be registered.

Clean Milk.

Three farms are licensed for tuberculin-tested milk and 109 are on the accredited roll. During the year 8 cowkeepers qualified newly for the latter.

(*b*) *Meat and Other Foods.*

Inspection.—The Report of the Inspector gives full details of inspections and meat condemned, and the work is summarized in the following table :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	*Cows.*	*Calves.*	*Sheep and Lambs.*	*Pigs.*
Number killed (if known)	592	40	76	2,664	2,864
Number inspected ...	424	37	49	1,289	2,626
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	1	5	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	17	1	—	17	26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	4.01	2.70	2.04	1.70	1.22
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	2	—	1	—	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	39	—	—	—	127
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	9.67	—	2.04	—	5.18

Slaughterhouses in use.

	1920.	Jan., 1938.	Dec., 1938.
Registered ...	13 ...	16 ...	16
Licensed ...	— ...	5 ...	5

Condemned meat is disposed of under the supervision of the Inspectors.

(*c*) The Bakehouses are subject to inspection, and are kept mostly in a cleanly condition. The closing of one unfit (wooden) Bakehouse was compelled during the year.

(*d*) The Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts are administered in the District entirely by the Officers of the County Council.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1930.

	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1931 ...	—	21	39	1	36	—	1
1932 ...	—	8	29	—	52	1	1
1933 ...	—	18	35	—	63	—	2
1934 ...	—	59	77	—	58	—	1
1935 ...	—	56	78	—	55	—	1
1936 ...	—	69	118	—	36	—	1
1937 ...	—	98	46	—	57	—	4
1938 ...	—	54	36	—	58	—	4

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1938.

Smallpox.—No cases were notified in 1938.

Diphtheria.—54 cases were notified during 1938. Of these, 31 cases occurred at Coleshill, 15 being in Institutions, 4 in one family, and 2 in each of two families, 7 at Balsall, 5 each at Arley and Keresley, and 2 at Corley.

There were 4 deaths, and 52 cases were removed to Hospital.

As far as I am aware, the SCHICK TEST has not been used in the District.

Immunisation.—Arrangements have been made for the supply to Medical Practitioners of material for Immunisation against Diphtheria, but so far little advantage has been taken of this provision.

The Council supply Diphtheria Antitoxin in necessitous cases through Mr. Crooke, Chemist, High Street, Coleshill. In case of emergency, out of hours, a supply may be obtained from Mr. Kenyon, Inspector, Coleshill. Tel. Coleshill 35.

Scarlet Fever.—36 cases were notified. Of these 13 occurred at Arley, 9 at Marston Green, 3 in one family and 2 in each of 2 other families, Coleshill 3, Balsall 3, Castle Bromwich 2, and Keresley 2, and the rest were distributed throughout the District. There were no deaths and 29 cases were removed to Hospital.

I have no record of the Dick Test being used, or of any method of artificial immunisation.

Enteric Fever.—No cases notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—4 cases were notified.

Pneumonia.—58 cases were notified, and there were 16 deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—4 cases were notified.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—No case notified.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.—4 cases were notified ; there were 2 deaths.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—No action was taken or required.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease.—The following list of school closures indicates fairly accurately the prevalence of these diseases :—

Coleshill Parochial Junior and Infants, 28th Feb. to 14th Mar. Whooping Cough.
Curdsworth, 7th Mar. to 28th Mar. Mumps.
Castle Bromwich Temporary, 8th to 21st Mar. Whooping Cough.
Shustoke Mixed, 3rd to 9th May. Influenza.
Marston Green, 31st May to Whitsun Holidays. Measles.
Astley, 22nd July to Summer Holidays. Chicken-pox.

Notifications of all Infectious Disease occurring amongst school children are duly forwarded to me from the schools.

There were 8 deaths from Influenza.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Tuberculosis.

Age—Periods	New Cases. Pulmonary. M.	New Cases. Pulmonary. F.	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. M.	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. F.	Deaths. Pulmonary. M.	Deaths. Pulmonary. F.	Deaths. Non-Pulmonary. M.	Deaths. Non-Pulmonary. F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
15	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	2	3	—	—	1	2	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	8	6	3	2	3	5	—	—

19 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 14 being of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 5 of other tuberculous disease. The figures since 1921 are as follows :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Cases	27	40	36	27	27	26	34	31	33
Deaths	13	11	9	7	24	20	13	12	23

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Cases	33	23	21	36	21	35	27	26	19
Deaths	16	9	5	18	12	16	7	12	6

8 deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis ; 8 were of pulmonary tuberculosis, and none of other forms of tuberculosis.

Treatment.—11 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 7 were discharged.

Disinfectants and sputum bottles are supplied free through the Sanitary Inspector for cases where they are desirable. After deaths from tuberculosis, and after removals of tuberculosis patients where possible, disinfection is carried out by the Inspector.

Lists of cases of Tuberculosis notified have been sent weekly to the County Medical Officer.

Causes of Sickness.

There is nothing of special note.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Meriden Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for 1938.

WATER ANALYSIS.

	Passed.	Unsatisfactory.	Condemned.	Total.
New Wells	4	2	—	6
Old Wells	6	4	27	37
Spring	1	—	—	1
Mains	1	—	—	1
	12	6	27	45

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Inspections of cowsheds during the year have numbered 805 and conditions have on the whole been found to be satisfactory.

The majority of the improvements effected have been at the premises of cowkeepers wishing to qualify for accredited licences. Two new sheds have been built and in existing sheds floors have been re-laid in concrete, with concrete or tubular divisions, lighting and ventilation increased and drains piped instead of running on to yards. Cooler places have been re-made or improved and steam sterilizers provided. The only form of sterilizer now recommended is the pressure-boiler and steam chest.

CLEAN MILK.

Eight Cowkeepers have newly qualified during the year for the accredited roll.

Samples of milk for methylene-blue and b.coli tests were taken to the number of 17. Twelve were satisfactory and 5 unsatisfactory. Nine Samples were taken for tubercle bacilli.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The numbers of registered and licensed slaughterhouses remain the same, 16 registered and 5 licensed. They are distributed as follows :— Registered, Allesley 1, Arley 1, Berkswell 2, Bickenhill 1, Castle Bromwich 1, Coleshill 2, Corley 2, Fillongley 1, Hampton-in-Arden 1, Keresley 1, Meriden 1, Over Whitacre 1, Water Orton 1 ; Licensed, 3 at Balsall and one each at Water Orton and Fillongley.

Two registered slaughterhouses changed hands during the year.

1,137 Inspections of slaughterhouses were made during the year and they were found, in general, to be well kept.

Three slaughtermen were newly licensed during the year, the licences to run, with those previously issued, to end of 1939.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Notices of slaughter during 1938 numbered 363, relating to 83 beasts, 625 pigs and 313 sheep and lambs.

Examination is on the lines laid down in Memo. 62 (Foods) and includes incision of various glands as routine. The following carcases were inspected :—

Beasts	461
Pigs	2,626
Sheep and lambs	1,289
Calves	49
	4,425

Condemned for reasons stated and voluntarily surrendered :—

Tuberculosis	Beasts	2
	Beast heads	21
	Pigs	9
	Pig heads	85
	Various organs	127
	Calf	1
Peritonitis	Pigs	2
	Sheep	1
Pneumonia	Pigs	2
Erysipelas	Pig	1
Injuries	Sheep	3
	Parts of animals ...	6
Septicaemia	Sheep	1
Dropsy	Pig	1
Parasites	Organs	28
Other causes	Organs	15
		305

One suspected outbreak of swine fever found in the course of meat inspection was not confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Suspected anthrax in the carcase of a sow was not confirmed, but the suspicion was declared to be a reasonable one.

Anthrax was confirmed in a cow and two bullock carcases. These animals had died and their carcases were burnt in the fields where they fell.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disinfections numbered 99. For cancer 2, tuberculosis 17, scarlet fever 34, diphtheria 43, cerebro-spinal meningitis 2, and pneumonia 1. No bedding was destroyed.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Two notices of want of limewashing at factory bakehouses were received and dealt with. No other nuisances arose.

NUISANCES.

The following were dealt with :—

Accumulations of refuse	5
Choked and defective drains	44
Cesspool overflowing and defective	34
Dampness	4
Dirty houses	2
Foul ditches	9
Insanitary privies	5
,, ashpits	27
Insufficient closet accommodation	2
Polluted wells	21
Prevalence of rats	1
Rainwater conductors defective	1
Verminous dwellings	4
Want of ashes receptacles	30
,, drainage	4
,, water supply	7
Water in cellar	1
	201

HOUSE INSPECTION.

61 Houses were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. Of these, 28 were found to be unfit and were dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health as Clearance Areas (13 houses and Demolition or Closing Orders (15).

73 Houses were dealt with as requiring repair.

I am indebted to Mr. Oldham and Mr. Haines, additional sanitary inspectors, for their willing assistance at all times, and to Mr. C. F. Underwood, clerk, for his care of the office records.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. T. KENYON,
Sanitary Inspector.

Coleshill,
18th Sept., 1939.

REPORT OF ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1938.

STAFF.

H. PICKERING, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., A.R.San.I.,
Engineer and Surveyor,
Inspector under Petroleum Acts,
Superintendent of the Fire Brigade.

H. MOSSOP, A.M.Inst.M. & Cy.E.,
Engineering Assistant.

C. A. BUNTING,
Junior Assistant.

A. O. ELIAS,
Draughtsman.

L. W. B. BEST,
Building Inspector.

R. S. CASWELL,
Clerk.

J. J. LILLEY,
Junior Clerk.

To the Meriden Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1938.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following Water Main Extensions have been sanctioned during the year, together with the provision of additional fire hydrants in many cases :—

Parish.	Situation.	Size.	Yards.	Hydrants.
Bickenhill ...	Church Road ...	4in. ...	183 ...	1
Castle	Water Orton Road ...	6in. ...	27 ...	—
Bromwich	Marlborough Road ...	6in. ...	48 ...	—
	West Avenue ...	6in. ...	604 ...	3
	Marlborough Road ...	4in. ...	604 ...	1
Do. ...	Chester Road ...	6in. ...	309 ...	2
Do. ...	Hazelhurst Road ...	4in. ...	26 ...	—
	Hurst Lane North ...	6in. ...	42 ...	1
	Birch Road	4in. ...	99 ...	—
Do. ...	Bradford Road ...	15in. ...	700 ...	—
	Chester Road ...	15in. ...	1,445 ...	—
Do. ...	Hurst Lane North ...	4in. ...	69 ...	—
Do. ...	Marlborough Road ...	4in. ...	37 ...	—
Do. ...	Bentley Road ...	4in. ...	134 ...	1
Do. ...	Chester Road ...	6in. ...	103 ...	—
Do. ...	Selworthy Road ...	4in. ...	30 ...	—
Do. ...	Manor Park Road ...	6in. ...	100 ...	—
	Whateley Crescent ...	4in. ...	133 ...	1
Do. ...	Hazelhurst Road ...	4in. ...	210 ...	1
	Wyckham Road ...	4in. ...	160 ...	1
	Do. ...	6in. ...	584 ...	3

Parish.	Situation.	Size.	Yards.	Hydrants.
Castle Bromwich	Springfield Road ...	4in. ...	137 ...	—
	Water Orton Road ...	6in. ...	630 ...	2
Do. ...	Green Lanes ...	6in. ...	166 ...	—
	Do.	4in. ...	507 ...	2
	Roads, Smallwood Estate	4in. ...	923 ...	2
Coleshill ...	Chester Road ...	6in. ...	347 ...	2
Do. ...	Station Road Estate	4in. ...	464 ...	2
Do. ...	Wantage Road ...	4in. ...	115 ...	1
Curdworth ...	Water Orton Road ...	6in. ...	823 ...	3
	Lichfield Road ...	12in. ...	44 ...	—
Fillongley ...	Bury Fields Farm, off Fillongley Lane ...	4in. ...	119 ...	1
	Mill Lane	4in. ...	131 ...	1
Maxstoke ...	Castle Lane ...	4in. ...	132 ...	—
Shustoke ...	Station Road ...	4in. ...	22 ...	—
	Do.	6in. ...	373 ...	2
Water Orton	Lichfield Road ...	12in. ...	249 ...	—
	Marsh Lane ...	12in. ...	300 ...	—
Over Whitacre	Botts Green Lane ...	4in. ...	74 ...	—

BUILDINGS, ETC., FOR WHICH PLANS WERE DEPOSITED IN 1938.

PARISH.	Houses.	Bungalows.	Alterations & Conversions.	Other Buildings.	Lay-outs, Drains, etc.	TOTAL.
Allesley	8	—	1	5	1	15
Arley	13	3	2	4	—	22
Astley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Balsall	11	3	9	7	3	33
Barston	1	—	1	5	—	7
Berkswell	6	1	2	3	1	13
Bickenhill	11	—	2	10	—	23
Castle Bromwich	580	4	4	10	7	601
Coleshill	98	6	5	11	5	121
Corley	1	9	1	3	3	17
Curdworth	5	—	—	3	—	8
Fillongley	10	—	2	3	—	15
Hampton-in-Arden	19	15	5	6	1	46
Keresley	1	—	2	—	—	3
Lea Marston	8	—	1	4	1	14
Maxstoke	1	4	—	—	—	5
Meriden	9	4	1	4	—	18
Great Packington	—	—	1	—	—	1
Little Packington	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shustoke	10	2	2	—	—	14
Water Orton	48	6	2	1	—	57
Nether Whitacre	14	—	—	—	—	14
Over Whitacre	2	—	—	—	—	2
Wishaw	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	856	49	43	79	22	1,049

Table showing building progress :—

HOUSES AND BUNGALOWS.

Year.	No.
1919	10
1922	53
1925	222
1928	243
1929	199
1930	244
1931	233
1932	127
1933	190
1934	217
1935	267
1936	282
1937	258
1938	396

SEWERAGE.

The following lengths of sewers were constructed during 1938 :—

	Size.	Length.
Extension, Diddington Lane, Hampton-in-Arden	9in. diam.	236yds.
Re-laying, High Street, Keresley	9in. diam.	186yds.
Extension, Water Orton Road	9in. diam.	370yds.
Do. Castle Bromwich	6in. diam.	571yds.

The following schemes, which were prepared in 1938, are in progress at the time of writing :—

New Sewer, Ansley Lane, Arley	6in. diam.	210yds.
New Sewers, across the new By-pass Road,	9in. diam.	197yds.
Coleshill	21in. diam.	170yds.

The construction of the Coleshill By-pass Road necessitated alterations to two lengths of outfall sewers, one the main outfall sewer of the Town, the other a sewer taking the drainage of Hall Walk, the works being carried out by the Contractors for the By-pass Road.

The Balsall Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme was amended on the lines set out in the 1937 Report, and approval was received from the Ministry of Health. Tenders were invited in August, 1939, but owing to the war those received were not considered, and the carrying out of the scheme is postponed indefinitely. The estimated cost of the scheme as amended is £21,895.

The scheme for the construction of additional sewers and for the enlargement of the sewage disposal works at Meriden was approved by the Ministry of Health, and a tender, amounting to £4,724, has (1939) been accepted. It is not certain, however, that the scheme will now be carried out.

The Fillongley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme was completed and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval, but it is now unlikely that the Ministry will consider it.

SCAVENGING.

Fourteen Parishes and the portion of Knowle which was added to Balsall, are now scavenged. Arley and Keresley have weekly collections, Over Whitacre monthly, and the remainder fortnightly.

Arley, Keresley and Water Orton schemes are carried out by contract, the remainder being done by direct labour with the Council's own men and plant.

The following table gives an analysis of the work done during the year :—

Parish.	Refuse moved (loads).	Ashpits emptied.	Pails emptied.
Arley	716	99	5,830
Balsall	37	—	834
Bickenhill	423	—	—
Castle Bromwich	493	—	974
Coleshill	871	—	5,335
Corley	179	—	6,661
Curdworth	88	—	262
Fillongley	371	—	5,691
Hampton-in-Arden	323	—	2,201
Keresley	345	—	—
Meriden	345	—	—
Shustoke	110	—	4,019
Water Orton	160	158	476
Nether Whitacre	138	—	6,308
Over Whitacre	50	—	—
	4,649	257	38,591

PETROLEUM.

Licences to store petroleum number 92, and carbide of calcium 1. They are distributed as follows :—

Allesley 5, Arley 3, Balsall 11, Barston 2, Berkswell 6, Bickenhill 4. Castle Bromwich 6, Coleshill 16, Corley 2 (Carbide 1), Curdworth 5, Fillongley 4, Hampton-in-Arden 5, Keresley 2, Lea Marston 5, Meriden 3, Shustoke 1, Water Orton 3, Nether Whitacre 6, Over Whitacre 2, Wishaw 1.

AMBULANCE.

(For Non-Infectious Cases).

During the year, 234 calls were received, of which 126 were for road accidents, 17 for accidents at work, and 91 for other cases. Of these calls, 211 were carried out by your own ambulance, 12 by your Tender, 7 by Solihull Urban District Council, and 4 by Sutton Coldfield Borough Council.

The usefulness of the Ambulance Service is shown by the following table :—

Year.	Road Accidents.	Accidents at Work.	Other Cases.	Total.	Mileage.
1930 (May-Dec.)	55	—	38	95	2,246
1931	41	—	66	107	2,797
1932	57	—	75	132	3,526
1933	76	—	84	160	4,198
1934	67	—	84	151	3,919
1935	69	16	95	180	4,638
1936	102	22	79	203	5,184
1937	109	19	108	236	5,731
1938	126	17	91	234	5,249

RE-HOUSING.

During 1938 the following houses and bungalows were erected in connection with the Council's re-housing programme :—

Fillongley ... ... (commenced 1937)	2 4-bedroom type houses. 20 3- do. do. 22 total.
Castle Bromwich	2 4-bedroom type houses. 12 3- do. do. 4 aged persons' bungalows. 18 total.
Meriden	2 4-bedroom type houses. 4 3- do. do. 6 total.
Nether Whitacre	2 4-bedroom type houses. 4 3- do. do. 6 total.
Lea Marston	4 4-bedroom type houses. 2 3- do. do. 6 total.

Further schemes which have been prepared, and which are either completed or in progress at the time of writing, are :—

Maxstoke	4 aged persons' bungalows.
Meriden	3 do. do.
Water Orton	8 3-bedroom type houses. 6 aged persons' bungalows. 14 total.
Arley	12 aged persons' bungalows.
Shustoke	2 4-bedroom type houses. 5 3- do. do. 2 aged persons' bungalows. 9 total.
Balsall	6 3-bedroom type houses. 2 aged persons' bungalows. 8 total.

Schemes for 80 dwellings on the Springfield Estate, Coleshill, and for 16 dwellings in Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, have been prepared, but owing to the outbreak of hostilities are not being proceeded with.

157 lineal yards of service road had to be constructed in front of the 18 houses erected at Castle Bromwich, and 60 yards of service road in front of the 6 houses erected at Nether Whitacre. 123 yards of service road and cul-de-sac are being constructed on the Water Orton housing site at the time of writing.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. PICKERING,
Engineer and Surveyor.

TOWN HALL,
COLESHILL,
BIRMINGHAM.
23rd September, 1939.

Table I.

RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1938.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served. Statutory.	Notices served. Informal.	Nuisances Abated after Notices.
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	575	10	131	137
Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	59	—	—	—
Cow Sheds	805	—	51	51
Bakehouses	34	—	1	1
Slaughter Houses	1137	—	—	—
Canal Boats	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	60	—	56	56
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	5	—	5	5
Water-closets	2	—	2	2
House Drainage	44	5	39	44
Water Supply	179	5	4	9
Pigsties	—	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept ...	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	67	6	55	61
Various Inspections	673	—	—	—
New Buildings	—	—	—	—
Totals	3640	26	344	366

	No.
Drain tests: Other than Water	11
Unwholesome Meat condemned	305
Samples of Food taken for Analysis (Milk)	—
Ditto of Food found adulterated	—
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis	45
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use	27

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	—
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	99
Schools ditto ditto ditto	—

F. T. KENYON, Sanitary Inspector.

Table II.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1938 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births. Nett.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1932	25,250	413	17.6	28	68	263	11.2
1933	25,630	397	15.4	17	43	264	9.6
1934	26,220	422	16.0	27	64	302	11.5
1935	26,680	443	16.6	19	43	272	10.2
1936	27,090	473	17.5	20	42	280	10.4
1937	27,540	464	16.9	21	45	294	10.7
1938	27,980	519	18.6	24	46	268	9.6

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1938.

England and Wales.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1938 (*Provisional Figures*).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Birth	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	15.1	0.60	11.6	53
126 Great Towns, including London	15.0	0.65	11.7	57
148 Smaller Towns	15.4	0.60	11.0	51
London	13.4	0.48	11.4	57

Table III.—MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1938.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Plague	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	54	.....	11	31	5	6	1	.....	52	4
Erysipelas	14	.....	.....	3	.....	3	7	1	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	36	1	12	20	2	1	.....	.....	29	.....
Typhus Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia	58	6	9	11	8	7	10	7	.....	16
Malaria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	.....	.....	.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	4	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Polio-Encephalitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	14	.....	.....	.....	2	9	3	.....	.....	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	5	.....	1	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	194	12	34	70	21	28	21	8	81	30

Table IV.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death during the Year 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	139	129
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	.....	.....
2 Measles	.....	.....
3 Scarlet Fever	.....	.....
4 Whooping Cough	1	.....
5 Diphtheria	2	2
6 Influenza	4	4
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	.....	.....
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	5
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases	.....	.....
11 Syphilis	.....	.....
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	1	.....
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease	19	13
14 Diabetes	3	3
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	3	5
16 Heart Disease	25	31
17 Aneurysm	.....	.....
18 Other Circulatory Diseases	5	11
19 Bronchitis	4	3
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	13	3
21 Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3
22 Peptic Ulcer	2	1
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	.....	1
24 Appendicitis	1	1
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	.....	1
26 Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	.....	.....
27 Other Digestive Diseases	4	6
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	3
29 Puerperal Sepsis	.....	.....
30 Other Puerperal Causes	.....	1
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	12	3
32 Senility	4	4
33 Suicide	4	3
34 Other Violence	13	4
35 Other Defined Diseases	11	17
36 Causes, ill-defined or unknown	.....	.....